

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application in light of the above amendments and following comments is courteously solicited.

Initially, the undersigned would like to thank Examiners Barrett and Sigler for the courtesies extended during an interview held with the undersigned on July 29, 2009. At the interview, newly submitted independent claim 31 was discussed in detail and it was agreed by Examiners Barrett and Sigler that claim 31 complied with the formal requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112, overcame the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 101, and defined over the cited and applied prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103.

While Examiners Barrett and Sigler indicated that newly presented independent claim 31 defined over the prior art of record, the Examiners indicated that a further search of the prior art would be conducted before issuing any indication of allowance.

In light of the foregoing, Applicant submits that the claims as pending are patentable over the prior art of record. In the event the Examiners uncover any additional prior art, Applicant's representative requests, if possible, to further discuss this case so as to advance prosecution.

An earnest and thorough attempt has been made by the undersigned to resolve the outstanding issues in this case and place same in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or feels that a telephone or personal interview would be helpful in resolving any outstanding issues which remain in this application after consideration of this amendment, the Examiner is courteously invited to telephone the undersigned and the same would be gratefully appreciated.

If any fees are required in connection with this case, it is respectfully requested that they be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-0184.

Respectfully submitted,

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